

WILLIAM H. MEYER

WILLIAM H. MEYER, Democrat, At Large, Vermont. Vermont on November 4 did something that it hasn't done in more than a century. It elected a Democrat, William H. Meyer, 43, West Rupert forestry consultant and farmer to its one at-large seat. The last Democrat to turn the trick was Thomas Bartlett, Jr., elected to the House on the Democratic and Free Soil ticket in 1850. Bartlett lasted one term, from 1851-53.

Meyer hopes to last longer. He started in auspiciously. He defeated former Governor Harold J. Arthur (R.) of Burlington by nearly 3,900 votes, although Arthur was widely known and Meyer was unknown. Meyer ran a shoe-string campaign, but got around to talk to farms. He carried many rural areas not previously carried by a Democrat. He also benefited from the national Democratic trend and a split among Republicans resulting from a six-man field in the primary. He wanted to run for the Senate, but settled for the House. It proved to be a break for Meyer, for the Senate candidate, State Senator Frederick J. Fayette (D.), missed election by 5,434 votes.

A native of Pennsylvania and a graduate of Pennsylvania State University in agriculture, Meyer came to Vermont 18 years ago. He and his wife live on a 14-acre farm. They have three children. Meyer didn't switch from farming to politics until 1956. Then, because he did not like the renomination of Vice President Nixon, he campaigned for the Democratic Presidential ticket and wound up by running himself for town representative.